

Haynes Organization of Parents
2nd Quarterly Meeting General Meeting
December 6, 2007 9:30am

Executive Board Members Attending: Gill Emery, Lisa Gutch, Jenn Cehelsky, Erika Hunsberger, and Kim Lewis.

Gill called the meeting to order and the reading of the previous meeting notes were read by all attendees. A motion to vote on the minutes was made and the minutes were approved.

Committee Updates were provided by Lisa Gutch for chairs who were not present. January 25 will be movie night, with Feb. 1 as a snow date. The DJ for the Haynes Family Fun Night was chosen.

For Laurence, who couldn't be there, Lisa delivered three reports. As the Room Parent Coordinator, she had nothing to report except that the phone chain was in place and all room parents are in place. As the 3rd Grade Craft Fair Coordinator, she said that no craft is scheduled as yet. She had contacted the 3rd grade teachers in October, and they said they would keep her posted. She was going to follow up with them in the new year. (They might be waiting to do a craft that is related to the Colonial Times segment of the curriculum). As Publicity Coordinator, she asked that committee chairs (and anyone else) send any publicity to her. She'll take pictures and follow up by sending them to the Town Crier.

Kim Cullen/Directories

An addendum to the directories will be available later in December.

Tricia Garrett/ Garden

The school compost bin is nearly ready.

Sofia Kambanis/Hospitality

Same to report as previously stated at the last meeting.

Lucinda Wittenberg/Wizards Update:

They had a great response to the Wizards basketball show. We earned \$577 and we hope to do it again next year, although the hope is to not schedule the program at 5pm on a long weekend.

Jeri Tarini/Lisa Gyory/Science Enrichment

Programs for the second grade include Lasers, Kitchen Chemistry, and Physical

Changes. The fourth grade will explore rocks and minerals, and the kindergarten will investigate balls and ramps.

Simple Machines by Tom Wally for the 2nd and 5th grades went well, but was very expensive. The same programs as previously indicated either occurred (Bug Works, Electricity/Weather) or are scheduled (StarLab-3rd, Aquarium-1st, Habitat-1st, Hatching-K, and Farm Friends-preK). They have enough money in their budget so far and are checking with teachers for remaining topics that they wish to explore. They are hoping to get the Fox News 5th grade program to come to Haynes.

The Science Fair is scheduled for April 9, an early release day. They have had a hard time getting volunteers, but they are hoping that situation improves. They are considering making the science fair thematic.

Wendy Shiao/Web

Wendy offered her thanks for getting the weekly notices in on time. She indicated that there wouldn't be any notices during vacation week and that we have until Wednesday mid-morning to get notices out.

Mary Brauer/METCO

There's been a great response to the METCO "First Fridays", which are held at 8am on the first Friday of every month, and Kim Swain has been very involved in these events.

Mary Brauer/Festivals

The original list of volunteers wasn't definite, so, as a result, we are still in need of chairs for the Mexico and Japan festivals. Chicken Festival is all set and the Colonial Festival is scheduled for March 19.

Pam O'Brien/Cultural Arts:

The Incredible Chinese Acrobats for the 4th grade had to cancel as a result of Homeland Security issues. The anti-bullying program (Deanna's Fund) had mixed results; while the teachers liked it, Susan Carlson was less enthusiastic. She felt that there was too much discussion and not enough role-playing. Eshu Bumpus is slated to visit the 2nd through 5th grades next week. Blue Jupiter, an a cappella group, will perform on January 25, 2008. Mother Goose will visit the kindergarten on January 25, 2008. Susan Thompson is slated to visit the 2nd grade in May. Pam is looking to replace the Abigail Adams program with Rachel Revere, "Tea for Trouble," about the Boston Tea Party and Revere's midnight ride from the perspective of his family. Louisa May Alcott may potentially be replaced by a field trip to the Orchard House. Her budget is OK.

Treasurer:

We are now \$12,000 over budget. Directories and Book Fair were right on budget,

Hayneswear and the Direct Appeal are over budget, and Family Photo, Wrapping Paper, and Photo Inc. are under.

Fundraising:

Jenn is waiting to publish mid-year results until she has more definite numbers. They hope to have a survey in January to solicit opinions on fundraising events, both specific and in general, and volunteer jobs. In terms of specific events that have occurred, they will be asking about whether to keep, shift, or add events. They intend to use the results to schedule activities for the upcoming year.

Bingo Night will be on February 29th and headed up by Michelle Meal and Michelle Petronio. In the early spring, they are looking to add a children's artwork on stationery fundraiser. Online shopping has a new page for its website. The Book Fair went well. Moonlite did great; while the numbers were down, they still made budget. There was some discussion about ending the evening at 8:30. They are looking into a new location for the Parents' Night Out auction event.

Susan Carlson

Susan announced that the hawk is the "official" Haynes school mascot.

The School Improvement Council has broached two subjects this year: homework and parent volunteers in the classroom. Regarding homework, the pros and cons of homework in general and the differentiation of homework have been discussed. Should all students in a given grade receive the same homework? Or, should more challenging work be offered to others? They are researching the various facets of this topic. The parent members of the council reported the sense that there could be more parents in the classroom during academic times. Susan explored this topic at administrative meetings with the other Sudbury schools. Kim Swain asked other literacy specialists. The teachers were asked how they use parents in the classroom and if they wanted parent help or not. Nothing has been resolved regarding these two concerns, nor has anything been changed yet. Susan also said that they are looking to have some type of forum to address the report card format. Susan had heard many questions regarding the reasons for the format changed and what the symbols mean. That said, the current report card format is a result of a district-wide implementation for that specific report card form.

Finally, she reported that they will get the bad weather line up and running.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Lewis
HOP Secretary

